

Using ELISA for *Phytophthora ramorum* Survey

Posted by Jonathan Jones, *P. ramorum* Program Manager 25 July 2006 pending updated protocol by CPHST

ELISA -

The approved ELISA is test produced by Agdia, Inc. This immunologically-based assay is designed to detect any species of *Phytophthora* and is also reported to detect some species of *Pythium*. The intent of using ELISA as a 'pre-screen' is to reduce the number of samples that will need to be processed for subsequent tests. In general, ELISA tests are relatively high throughput. Very recently, Agdia released a modified extraction buffer that reduces high background levels seen with certain hosts, especially *Syringa*. Samples that are tested by ELISA and found to be **above a background threshold are to be tested further..** Samples that are below the threshold level do not need to be tested further. The current diagnostic protocol does not require the use of ELISA. However, it is important to keep in mind that this is a national program and that there are limited resources for diagnoses. The ELISA test is intended as triage, thereby significantly reducing the number of samples that need to be tested further, and thus reducing pressure on later stages of the diagnostic process. All laboratories are strongly encouraged to use the *Phytophthora* ELISA for screening of all samples.

If details or further information is needed on ELISA and its use in this program, please contact:

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